SUBJECT No. 60.

Empowering the Village Patel or the Shekdar to issue *mafi* licenses for removing seebu, etc.

Messrs A. Venkataramaiya and Patel Shankarappa, Tarikere Taluk.

Summary of Discussion.—Officers of the Forest Department alone are now empowered to issue licenses to remove seebu, firewood, and junglewood for agricultural implements. This is very inconvenient for the raiyat population. It is therefore requested that either the village patel or the sheikdar may be empowered to issue *mafi* licenses.

First member of Council.—It is impossible to empower patels and shanbhogs to issue such permits from the state forests.

Mr. Shankrappa also complained about the prohibtion of removing seebu etc., from the State Forests.

Reply of Government.—If any inconvenience is felt, the Forest Department may be approached when the matter will be investigated and the difficulty removed. It is not possible to empower patels and shanbhogs to issue free permits for the removal of produce from the State Forests.

SUBJECT No. 61.

Extension of the concessions under the Malnad Raiyats' Privileges Rules also to people in towns.

Messrs. A. Ananthiah, C. Subba Rao and P. Venkappiah, Shimoga Taluk.

Summary of Discussion.—It is prayed that the concession shown to raiyats under the Malnad Raiyats' Privileges Rules may be extended to *khatedars* living in towns of malnad districts.

Reply of Government.—The question of making the Malnad Raiyats' Privileges Rules more liberal is under consideration and the representation will be noted and considered in that connection.

REVENUE—(EXCISE).

(Nos. 62 and 63).

SUBJECT No. 62.

Reduction of drinking in the State.

Mr. J. R. Isaac, Indian Christian Association, Bangalore.

Mr. J. R. Isaac said that the present system of Licensing Boards was not at all satisfactory; Licensing Boards existed only in Bangalore, Mysore and the Kolar Gold Fields and they had abselutely no power. He added that there were several irregularities. Liquor shops were kept open much beyond the prescribed time and even after the shops were closed sale was conducted through the windows and liquors were sold even to children. In Bengal, Bombay and other parts, people had a voice in the matter of liquor traffic. In Mysore also, the Licensing Boards might be given powers to control the traffic of liquor.

Reply of Government.—There is no difference of opinion as regards the general principle, and details of working have to be settled with the Excise Commissioner. The question of giving more power to the Licensing Boards will be considered.

SUBJECT No. 63

Recovery of the full amount of tree-tax from the toddy contractor when he applies for trees.

Mr. H. S. Chikkanna Gowda, Belur Taluk.

Summary of Discussion.—(*a*) If date trees are given to toddy contractors for tapping, the owner of land gets 4 annas for every tree and in cases of default to pay the second instalment of tree tax due to Government, the same will be recovered from the *khatedars* who are, not at all, responsible. This is hard on the owners of land, as they have no information of sums paid by the contractor and of sums remaining to be paid. The whole tax may be collected from the contractor in one instalment.

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